

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EB-04 ISO-00 RSC-01 /013 W

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R 221002Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5835

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BEXP, GB

SUBJ: SERVICE ON GE LOCOMOTIVES

USDOC PLEASE PASS GE

REF: STATE 221665

1. AFTER TRANSLATING, EMBASSY FORWARDED TELEX (REFTEL) REGARDING SPARE PARTS TO OCTRA. WHILE EMBASSY BELIEVES GE RESPONSE MORE THAN ADEQUATE REGARDING SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO COVER WHOLE PROBLEM. SPARE PARTS MAY ARRIVE IN PLENTY OF TIME, BUT THERE IS STILL PROBLEM OF INSTALLATION. GABONESE SKILLED MANPOWER AT MINIMUM AND FRENCH TECHNICIANS MAY BE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT INSTALLING PARTS ON U.S. LOCOMOTIVES, ESPECIALLY WHEN FRENCH LOCOMOTIVES WILL BE COMPETING DIRECTLY AGAINST THEM.

2. EMBASSY SEES SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES THAT MIGHT HELP TO SOLVE PROBLEM. FIRST WOULD BE FOR GE TO TRAIN SEVERAL GABONESE MECHANICS IN MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF GE LOCOMOTIVES. RELATED TRAINING MIGHT ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR ENGINEERS OF LOCOMOTIVES. AS COMILOG USES GE LOCOMOTIVES (ALBEIT DIFFERENT TYPE) GABONESE MIGHT FIRST BE GIVEN FEW WEEKS TRAINING IN CONGO ON GE LOCOMOTIVES BEFORE BEING SENT TO U.S. FOR FURTHER TRAINING ON TYPE OF LOCOMOTIVE TO BE SOLD FOR TRANSGABON.

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IN THIS WAY ONLY GABONESE WITH DEMONSTRATED APTITUDE AND SOME

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE SENT TO U.S.

3. SECOND WOULD BE FOR GE TO HAVE TECHNICIAN
STATIONED SOMEWHERE IN AFRICA WHO COULD FLY TO LIBREVILLE
ON 24-HOUR NOTICE AND REPAIR LOCOMOTIVES AND INSTALL PARTS,
THUS MINIMIZING DOWNTIME.

4. EMBASSY HOPES THAT GE CONSIDERING ABOVE OR SIMILIAR
MEASURES, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPETITION
BETWEEN GE AND FRENCH LOCOMOTIVES AND CERTAINTY
THAT FUTURE LOCOMOTIVE ORDERS WILL BE BASED ON COMPARISON
OF BOTH PERFORMANCE AND MAINTENANCE OF RESPECTIVE
PRODUCTS. PLEASE ADVISE.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.MCKESSON

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: SPARE PARTS, ROLLING STOCK
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 22 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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